

Judicial Administration Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
February 8, 2002

The Judicial Administration Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, February 8, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. Members present. Scott R. Bowers, Steven M. Fleece, Karen M. Love, Tanya Walton Pratt, Judith S. Proffitt, Michael A. Shurn, P. Thomas Snow, David L. Welch and Frances C. Gull, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Ron Miller and Andy Straw, State Court Administrator's Office; and Mr. Andy Hutcherson and Dr. Brian Vargus, I. U. Public Opinion Laboratory; Mr. Larry Grau; and Mr. Jim Jezek via speakerphone were also present.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on November 9, 2001 were approved.
5. In Memoriam. The members of the committee conducted a moment of silence on the recent death of committee member Judge George Heid, Tippecanoe Superior Court.
6. Weighted caseload update.
 - a. Dr. Vargus reported the I.U. Public Opinion Lab could only complete the Marion County portion of the study due to lack of staff resources. Dr. Vargus said the difficulty in obtaining data underlines the lack of resources to run the judicial system. Mr. Bercovitz distributed the data collection instrument and the compilation of data from that instrument by Mr. Jezek to committee members.
 - b. Mr. Jezek expressed concern about collecting less data than agreed upon earlier. The committee members agreed by consensus to collect judge time data from the same number of cases as originally agreed upon. He said weighted caseload should be a permanent portion of someone's office.
 - c. Mr. Bercovitz reported the State Court Administrator's Office needed the update by July 1, in light of the effective date of legislation to provide state funding for the trial courts. Mr. Bercovitz reported meeting with Ron Miller to substitute a few counties for those originally selected, based on numbers of judges, population, geographic location and computerization. Mr. Miller explained that 80 counties were computerized. The committee agreed by consensus to the following substitutions (underlined): Large: Lake, Marion; Medium: Floyd for Clark, Johnson, Monroe, Porter, Tippecanoe, Wayne, Madison – backup, Vanderburgh (Additional county); Small: Boone (not computerized), Clay (not computerized), Morgan for Hancock, Henry, Jefferson, Shelby for Knox, Wabash for Montgomery, Perry for Owen, and Rush (not computerized).

d. Dr. Vargus agreed to finish Marion County judge time data collection and prepare a report of the methodology for that data collection. Andy Hutcherson would randomly select the case files in all counties of the study for examination and train Larry Grau. Larry Grau will submit a bid for his cost to count judicial actions in the counties outside of Marion. Ron Miller and Andy Straw agreed to follow-up with vendors and clerks to get CCS's for review. Jim Jezek stated he would complete a compilation of the data.

7. Jury reform.

a. Mary Crean distributed and reviewed Indiana's new jury rules and the recommendations from the Citizen's Commission for the Future of Indiana Courts to members of the committee.

b. Judge Gull gave an overview of the committee's involvement in this area.

c. Judge Gull agreed to draft a letter to the Supreme Court with the committee's technical concerns about the new jury rules. She also agreed to approach the Chief Justice to determine his thoughts about approaching the Commission on Courts on statutory matters not covered by the new rules: exemptions, jury commissioners, and juror compensation.

d. The members of the committee thanked Mary Crean for her hard work in this area.

8. Next meeting. The committee agreed to meet again on Friday, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center. They also agreed to meet on Wednesday, September 11 in conjunction with the judicial conference, on Friday, October 11, and Friday, November 8, 2002 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law